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Subject very successful event on June 2 for MD ARRA CW & DW
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Just one of the articles - taken from the MDE press release and interviews

Maryland given \$122 million for water projects **2 Baltimore projects among those to receive EPA stimulus funds**

By Meredith Cohn | meredith.cohn@baltsun.com

June 3, 2009

Maryland was handed nearly \$122 million Tuesday from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to fund drinking water projects and improve water quality as part of the federal government's latest round of stimulus spending.

The stimulus effort, called the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, was advanced by President Barack Obama to jump-start the economy by improving the nation's infrastructure and creating and saving jobs. The money has begun steadily flowing to states through a variety of programs that are expected to improve roads and schools, as well as waterways and other programs.

Every county is expected to receive some funding as grants or loans. The awards are expected to start in July. Two projects in Baltimore met the initial criteria for some funding: a \$230,000 project under design in the Carroll Park area of Baltimore and a \$125 million project in the bidding phase at the Patapsco Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Carroll Park project will get the full amount, while \$6 million is slated for Patapsco.

Officials from the Maryland Department of the Environment were joined by members of the congressional delegation in accepting the water grant money from the EPA during a ceremony alongside the Anacostia River in Bladensburg, where some of the money will be used.

They said the funds will create hundreds of jobs in the state through infrastructure construction, in addition to protecting public health and cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay.

State officials drew nearly 600 applications for the money from every corner of Maryland, and 95 projects valued at \$1.8 billion made the initial cut because they met the criteria which included being "shovel ready" and having a strong health or environmental impact. The small difference in the award from the federal government will go to administrative costs.

In total, almost \$93 million will be used for pollution reduction projects that include wastewater treatment and sewer upgrades and storm water runoff controls.

More than \$26 million will go to improvements for drinking water treatment, water storage and wells.

"I want to thank President Obama and Maryland's federal delegation for working so hard to secure these Recovery and Reinvestment funds," Gov. Martin O'Malley said in prepared remarks.

Sen. Barbara Mikulski, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said the money will help update the state's aging water system without burdening local taxpayers.

Mikulski and Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin were also working on passage of separate legislation to provide more money for long-term water and wastewater infrastructure improvement programs. The money will flow through two existing programs at the state Department of the Environment, the Water Quality and Drinking Water Quality Revolving Loan Funds, which annually receive some funding from the state and federal governments. A portion of the funds were required to be spent on "green" infrastructure.

To see a list of projects and a map, go to mde.state.md.us. For more information on use of the federal money in the state, go to .

Proposed projects

- \$230,000 for a dry swale to control storm water and improve water quality on the Westport waterfront in Baltimore
- \$6 million toward filters and other upgrades to control excessive nutrients flowing to the Chesapeake Bay from the city's Patapsco Wastewater Treatment Plant
- \$6 million to upgrade the water storage reservoir and make other improvements in drinking water from the city's Montebello Plant

- \$2 million for the Chesapeake Bay Trust for seven projects in Anne Arundel, Talbot and Prince George's counties toward new "green" infrastructure that includes shoreline restoration, creation of wetlands and habitat creation



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EPA To Issue \$120M In Bay Cleanup Funding

Funds Will Go Toward Conservation, Bay Cleanup

POSTED: 9:51 pm EDT June 2, 2009
UPDATED: 7:23 pm EDT June 2, 2009



BALTIMORE -- The Maryland Department of the Environment is busy making plans for \$121.6 million in stimulus money that will be coming to the state from the Environmental Protection Agency.

With Chesapeake Bay recovery a priority with the Obama administration, 95 new Maryland projects will be able to use the federal funding. The Money is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and is meant for clean water projects.

The plant at Lake Montebello will get \$6 million of the funds and the Patapsco Wastewater Treatment plant will also get money for cleanup. It's a major source of bay pollution.

"This is going to be a huge step. It's going to greatly reduce nitrogen coming from that plant by upgrading it to the best available technology. So, we're really excited about that, and that will benefit the Patapsco River and of course the Chesapeake Bay, ultimately," said MDE spokeswoman Dawn Stoltzfus.

In Baltimore city, \$2.6 million will be issued for retrofitting low-flow sinks, toilets and water meters.

"And other means to help us conserve our water resources and use them wisely," Stoltzfus said.

The money is also to help create and sustain jobs.

"We're expecting these projects over the next two years will create hundreds of jobs," Stoltzfus said.

There were more than 600 applicants for the 95 approved projects. The checks are supposed to go out next month.

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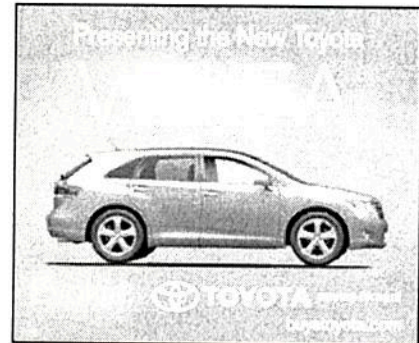
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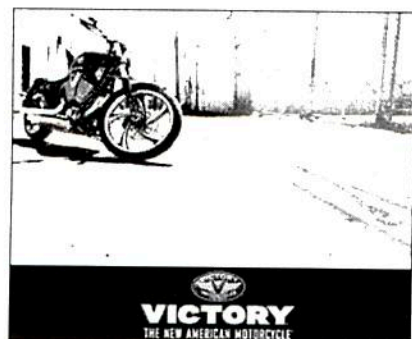


EPA To Issue \$120M In Bay Cleanup Funding



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By Meredith Cohn | meredith.cohn@baltisun.com

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Loan Funds, which annually receive some funding from the state and federal governments. A portion of the funds were required to be spent on "green" infrastructure.

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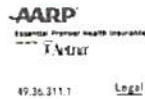
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Published: June 02, 2009 10:57 pm



Cardin: Americans entitled to clean water

Nearly \$9 million in federal stimulus funds will pay for Allegany, Garrett projects

Kevin Spradlin
Cumberland Times-News

CUMBERLAND — Federal and state officials Tuesday announced nearly \$9 million in federal stimulus funding for drinking water and water quality projects in Allegany and Garrett counties.

The funding is part of President Barack Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The goal of the grants, according to a news release from Sen. Benjamin Cardin's office, is to create jobs, protect public health and improve the Chesapeake Bay.

A total of \$119.2 million in grants and loans was announced. Another \$2.4 million in stimulus funding covers administrative costs, a spokesman with the Maryland Department of the Environment said. A complete list of projects can be viewed online at www.times-news.com.

All of the grants were directed to local "shovel-ready" projects. More than \$7.3 million went to projects in Allegany County. In Cumberland, \$6 million was earmarked for the upgrade of the city's wastewater treatment plant. The city had applied for \$10.2 million for the project plus another \$13 million for nine water mains.

Another \$1.3 million will be spent in LaVale on the Braddock Run interceptor rehabilitation project.

A water main transmission construction project in Mount Savage, which is the first step toward providing public water service to the old rail town, received \$815,000 of what is ultimately a \$6 million project. A second phase of a Mountain Lake Park water project in Garrett County received \$733,000.

Cardin, along with Environmental Protection Agency officials and Shan T. Wilson, MDE secretary, made the announcement at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park in Prince George's County.

"Americans have a right to clean water flowing through their streams, rivers and bays," said Cardin, who serves as chairman of the Senate's Environmental and Public Works Water and Wildlife Subcommittee. "And we all have a right to clean, healthy drinking water."

Cardin said he will continue to work for the passage of the Water Infrastructure Financing Act, which would provide a "strong foundation for our nation's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure."

"Congress passed the recovery bill to help jump-start our economy in Maryland and across the country," Cardin said in a news release. "The funds announced today will be critical in shoring up the needs of our aging water infrastructure system, creating jobs and investing in our future economic growth."

Maryland jurisdictions submitted projects totaling \$3.8 billion more than two months ago, leaving state officials to prioritize those projects.

Contact Kevin Spradlin at kspradlin@times-news.com.



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Md. Receives \$121.6 Million in ARRA Funding for Clean Water Projects

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Posted on June 02, 2009

MDE Says Recovery Dollars Will Help Fund Water Quality and Drinking Water Projects and Provide Jobs in Every County in Maryland

BLADENSBURG, Md. (June 2, 2009) – Today, standing in front of the Anacostia River, and joined by members of Maryland's Congressional Delegation, the Environmental Protection Agency awarded the Maryland Department of the Environment a \$121.6 million check to fund Maryland water quality and drinking water projects under President Barack Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). ARRA funding will enable construction of water infrastructure projects that are estimated to create hundreds of jobs, and that will protect public health, improve the environment, and help clean up the Chesapeake Bay and Maryland waterways. Per MDE's extensive screening process to review nearly 600 applicants for ARRA funding, every county in Maryland is proposed to receive some clean water recovery funding.

A total of \$92.8 million is proposed for pollution reduction projects, including wastewater treatment improvements, sewer upgrades, and stormwater runoff controls; \$26.4 million is proposed for improvements to drinking water treatment, water storage, and wells. Today's event highlighted a \$4 million grant to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission for repairs to the Lower Anacostia Sewer Main and Lateral Lining, located in one of the State's Environmental Benefits Districts, as one of 95 proposed projects to receive grants and/or low interest loans through ARRA.

"I want to thank President Obama and Maryland's federal delegation for working so hard to secure these Recovery and Reinvestment funds," said Governor O'Malley. "Today, thanks to the EPA, our Congressional Delegation, and President Obama, the state of Maryland has a 'shot in the arm' for clean water and the Chesapeake Bay. This clean water recovery funding will not only create jobs; it will directly benefit public health and quality of life and protect our environment – including our Chesapeake Bay cleanup efforts and our work to fight climate change."

Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Shari T. Wilson said: "This much-needed funding will not only provide hundreds of jobs across our State, it will help safeguard our drinking water and accelerate our efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay."

Per ARRA, the Environmental Protection Agency will provide funding for grants and/or loans through MDE's existing Water Quality and Drinking Water Quality Revolving Loan Funds. In February 2009, just days after President Obama signed the federal recovery act into law, the Maryland Department of the Environment announced its anticipated ARRA funding and encouraged local jurisdictions to apply. In response, the Agency received an unprecedented number of requests for the ARRA funding; in February and March 2009, MDE received \$3.7 billion in requests for water/wastewater projects.

The proposed funds were allocated based on readiness to proceed, as well as maximum environmental and health

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Maryland receiving \$122 million for water projects

Stimulus money would fund 500 jobs over two years

by Douglas Tallman | Staff Writer

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday will be delivering to the state \$121.6 million, federal recovery money that will go toward Maryland water projects.

Soon after the money is deposited, the state will move forward with 95 projects, said Dawn Stoltzfus, a spokeswoman for the Maryland Department of the Environment.

The list of projects cover two years' worth of work and include wastewater treatment plant upgrades, a new water tower, stream stabilization efforts and a water meter upgrade. About 40 percent of the money would go toward payroll, creating or sustaining 500 jobs, Stoltzfus said.

She said the state proposed the list of projects, meeting a list of criteria in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the law launched by the Obama administration to stimulate the faltering economy.

The main criteria were that that the projects could begin by the end of the year, she said.

The first contracts would be awarded at the July 22 Board of Public Works meeting, she said.

The check will be presented Tuesday morning at Bladensburg Waterfront Park, which is across the river from a \$4 million project being marshaled by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT ENVIROMATTERS

“Shovel Ready” Clean Water Projects Coming to Maryland

Maryland, with the leadership of our talented Congressional delegation, tracked every step in the development of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Just days after President Obama signed the ARRA, the Department of Environment revisited our list of unfunded projects and put out the word to towns and counties across the State about the funding coming to Maryland. Did we ever get a response! The requests outpaced available funding by about 30 to 1—MDE received over \$3.7 billion in requests for everything from wastewater treatment plant upgrades, water and sewer pipe repairs, drinking water improvements, and stormwater runoff controls and stream restoration. With approval from the Environmental Protection Agency, Maryland will award \$119.2 million in funding for these projects.

First, many thanks to each of the many municipalities and organizations that proposed over 600 worthy projects for funding. The applications, many developed on short notice, represented not only hard work but also provided a salient picture of the significant infrastructure needs we have across the State.

Last Friday, Governor O'Malley announced 95 proposed projects across Maryland that will boost our clean water infrastructure. From emergency repairs to Savage River Dam in Allegany County, to sewer pipe

repairs in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, to the Patapsco Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade in Baltimore, to sewer projects on the Eastern Shore, the list spells good news for Marylanders and the Chesapeake Bay. Projects to restore streams and reduce polluted stormwater runoff, to create “green streets” and roof gardens, to reuse water, to install solar panels—each project, and the job opportunities created, will make a real difference to communities across Maryland during difficult economic times.

ARRA funding requires that projects be “shovel ready,” meaning construction must begin by the end of 2009. At least half of the funding must be provided as grants, the rest as 0 or 1 percent low interest loans, and 20 percent of the funding must be used for “green infrastructure.” MDE ranked all projects by existing criteria rating the environmental and health benefits, and, following existing Water Quality and Drinking Water program criteria, directed grants to green projects and projects in disadvantaged communities and the State's Environmental Benefits Districts. We also wanted to ensure that every county in the State would benefit. To meet these criteria and ensure the funding would go as far as possible, funding was limited to a maximum of \$6 million per applicant, with the exception of projects needed to correct an emergency or to meet the 20 percent green reserve.

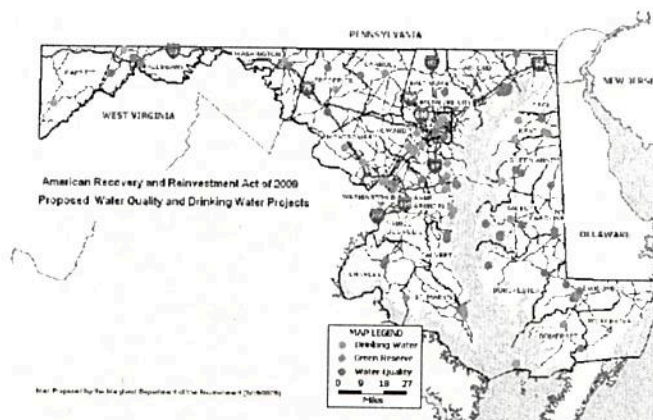
www.mde.state.md.us 800.633.6101



Martin O'Malley, Governor | Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor | Shari Wilson, Secretary

While many, many worthy proposals can't be funded this time, the applications have not been in vain. This week, I met with other environmental agency directors from across the Country and their stories were similar—demand far exceeding available funding in their states. We also heard that Congress is very interested in this demand and, if there is another stimulus package, based on the experience to date, the vast scale of requests will make it very likely that water, sewer, and green infrastructure projects will get greater attention in upcoming discussions about potential additional stimulus funding, federal statutory reauthorizations and federal budgets.

The full list of proposed projects, submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency for approval, is here:



http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/WaterPrograms/Water_Quality_Finance/FedStimulusProposedProjects.asp

For a complete picture of ARRA funding in Maryland across all sectors, please visit:
<http://statestat.maryland.gov/recovery.asp>

Over the coming months, as each of these 95 projects transforms from an entry line on a spreadsheet to a project in the ground for a cleaner and "greener" Maryland, we'll be tracking just how the money was spent and how many jobs were created.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shari T. Wilson".

Shari T. Wilson
Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment

www.mde.state.md.us 800.633.6101



Martin O'Malley, Governor | Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor | Shari Wilson, Secretary



Press Release

Maryland Department of the Environment

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Governor O'Malley Announces Statewide Economic Recovery Clean Water Projects

Federal Recovery Dollars Provide \$119.2 Million to Fund Water Quality and Drinking Water Projects in Every County in Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, MD (March 20, 2009)— Governor Martin O'Malley today announced 95 proposed Maryland water quality and drinking water projects totaling \$119.2 million to receive low interest loans and/or grants under President Barack Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The proposed funds were allocated based on readiness to proceed, as well as maximum environmental and health benefits, and will benefit every region of the State. The Maryland Department of the Environment received \$3.7 billion in requests for water/wastewater projects.

A total of \$92.8 million will be used for pollution reduction projects, including wastewater treatment improvements, sewer upgrades, and stormwater runoff controls; \$26.4 million will go to improvements for drinking water treatment, water storage, and wells.

"I want to thank President Obama and Maryland's federal delegation for working so hard to secure these Recovery and Reinvestment funds. This much-needed funding will not only provide hundreds of jobs across our State, but it will help safeguard our drinking water and accelerate our efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay," said Governor O'Malley. "The grants and low interest loans will also provide a boost to our State's 'green infrastructure' and help us become more efficient with our water and energy resources."

Per ARRA, the Environmental Protection Agency will provide funding for grants and/or loans through the Maryland Department of the Environment's existing Water Quality and Drinking Water Quality Revolving Loan Funds. Today's proposed projects will now go to the EPA for final approval. While requests outpaced available ARRA funding by 30 to 1, all Maryland counties will receive some stimulus funding.

"Maryland cities and towns need to upgrade their water and sewer systems, but they shouldn't have to do it by themselves," said U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "That's why I have worked hard to put money in the federal checkbook that creates jobs, builds communities, and takes care of our environment. This funding will not only save and create hundreds of jobs across Maryland, it will also prevent utility bill rate hikes, protect public health, and the health of the Chesapeake Bay."

"Marylanders are hurting, so I applaud Governor O'Malley and his team for moving quickly to put these funds to work," said U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin. "From Worcester County to Western Maryland, we will be making investments that support good paying jobs while also maximizing environmental and health benefits."

Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Shari T. Wilson said: "After receiving a flood of applications for this funding from around the State, we've worked to ensure that environmental benefits and job creation are maximized in every region of the State."

The State will offer 0 and 1 percent interest loans to an estimated 28 water quality and six drinking water projects totaling \$55.4 million for 23 applicants; 18 of 24 jurisdictions will receive grants totaling \$63.8 million. Each of Maryland's three designated "Environmental Benefit District" will receive a project grant.

In February, just days after President Obama signed the federal recovery act into law, the Maryland Department of the Environment announced its anticipated ARRA funding and encouraged local jurisdictions to apply. In response, the Agency received an unprecedented number of requests for the ARRA funding.

Funding Totals across the State: Funding Totals across the State:

Region	ARRA \$	% of Total Funding
Central	\$32,554,315	29%
Capital	\$22,240,895	20%
Lower Eastern Shore	\$15,523,287	14%
Upper Eastern Shore	\$12,999,612	11%
Southern	\$16,255,946	14%
Western	\$13,642,545	12%
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$113,216,600</i>	<i>100%</i>

*Total excludes one State emergency project for \$6 million.

The list and a map of ARRA projects to be funded through the Water Quality and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Funds can be found at: www.mde.state.md.us.

More information on Maryland's use of federal recovery funding can be found at recovery.maryland.gov.

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Green street project aims to keep toxic water out of Chesapeake Bay

By Shelby Lin Erdman CNN

November 28, 2009 Updated 2:52 PM ET (07:58 HKT)



The project is part of a push in the DC-Pennsylvania region to clean up Chesapeake Bay.

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

New road will help clean storm water pollution that drains into rivers, Chesapeake Bay

Road will divert runoff into natural gardens designed to filter water

Plan also uses native tree cover to cool streets, wind-powered street lights

Project aims to reduce storm water pollution, air pollution, fallout to the bay, official says

RELATED TOPICS

Nature and the Environment
Chesapeake Bay

(CNN) -- A small town in Maryland is setting a precedent in eco-friendly road construction, breaking ground this week on one of the greenest streets in the nation.

The tiny port town of Edmonston in Prince George's County is billing the thoroughfare as the greenest on the East Coast. The road will help clean and filter toxic storm water pollution that drains into rivers, and eventually into Chesapeake Bay.

"What we're hoping to do, from top to bottom, is build a street that is completely environmentally sustainable," said Edmonston Mayor Adam Ortiz.

Ortiz says the blueprint incorporates native tree cover to cool off the streets, wind-powered street lights that use high-efficiency LED bulbs, and pedestrian and bicycle access.

But most important, says Ortiz, is the plan for all that water that rolls down the streets when it rains.

"[It's] not going to be flushed into our local rivers. Instead it's going to be naturally filtered. And that's very important for us to save our rivers and to help save the Chesapeake Bay here in Maryland."

Storm water runoff often carries toxins and pollution from parking lots and city streets, and from farms and agricultural lands in rural areas. Most cities and towns have underground concrete drain systems that collect the runoff and dump it into rivers and streams, pollutants and all.

"What we're going to do, instead, is divert that water into natural gardens. To the naked eye it just looks like a regular garden, but actually it's very specially engineered to absorb a lot of water and naturally filter it before it gets into the water table, and to keep it from washing all those pollutants into the river," according to Ortiz.

The storm water runoff in Edmonston drains into the nearby Anacostia River, which feeds into the Washington Channel, then empties into the Potomac River and eventually Chesapeake Bay.

The eco-street project includes using porous bricks in building the road and creating bioretention cells or rain gardens. The idea is to trap the polluted runoff water, sending it through natural filter systems so that when it makes it into the Anacostia, it's a lot cleaner.

Maryland Department of the Environment Deputy Secretary Robert Summers hopes this new main street in Edmonston is just the first of many.

"This kind of green infrastructure project to reduce storm water and energy consumption is exactly the kind of thing we need to do around



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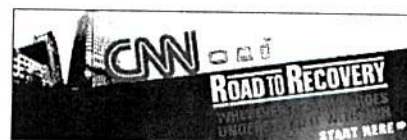
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11/24/2009 12:03 PM

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cc Jon Capacasa/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Harriet
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Subject Final Edmonston Press Release

FYI

Contact: Terri White white.terri-a@epa.gov 215-814-5523

Administrator Jackson Tours Recovery Act-Funded "Green Street" *Project is Transforming MD Neighborhood, Creating Jobs*

(WASHINGTON, Nov. 24, 2009) – EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson joined federal, state, and local officials today for the ground-breaking of the region's 'greenest' street, a Recovery Act-funded project that's transforming a Prince George's County neighborhood and creating jobs.

The reconstruction of Decatur Street, in the Prince George's County Town of Edmonston, will make it an environmentally-responsible street saving energy, reducing water pollution to the Anacostia River and Chesapeake Bay, and improving local air quality.

"President Obama's Recovery Act is creating jobs today and setting the stage for prosperous, sustainable communities in the years ahead," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "This is real recovery for Main Street. We're putting people to work by building one of the greenest neighborhoods in the country, and showing America how sustainable development can lower energy bills, foster healthier communities, and keep pollution out of the air, land, and local water sources."

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley said, "Edmonston's 'green street' is just one of nearly 100 new job-creating and job-saving projects across Maryland getting underway thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act -- projects that will help to clean up the Chesapeake Bay and local waterways and protect our drinking water. We thank the Obama Administration, the EPA, and Maryland's Congressional Delegation for this much-needed funding."

Edmonston's Mayor Adam Ortiz hosted the event, which included a walking tour along Decatur Street with its residents, business owners and local workers employed by the project. He said the \$1.1 million in Recovery Act funding from EPA will make Decatur Street the greenest on the East Coast. Plans for the mile-long street include planting dozens of native trees, installing rain gardens and porous paving to filter rainwater and reduce flooding, building bike lanes, improving pedestrian safety, and using energy-saving street lights powered by wind.

Mayor Ortiz explained, "This project shows how a committed group of people working together can transform a community. From President Obama and EPA to local nonprofits and residents of this small town, we are able to set an environmental example nationwide. It may be unusual for a small, working class, majority-minority community like ours to build a sustainable street like this. But if we can, anyplace can - and everyplace should. Our main objective is that other towns and cities will 'steal' these ideas and replicate and improve on them."

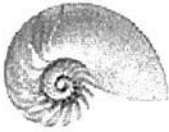
“The Chesapeake Bay Trust is proud to partner with EPA, Maryland Department of Environment, and the Town of Edmonston in bringing much needed Recovery Act funds to local communities,” said Allen Hance, Executive Director of the Trust. “This is exactly the kind of ‘green infrastructure’ project we need to become the rule rather the exception if we’re going to advance local economic recovery and the recovery of the Anacostia River and Chesapeake Bay.”

President Barack Obama directed that the Recovery Act funds be implemented with unprecedented transparency and accountability.

For information on EPA’s implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 in Washington, visit:


<http://www.epa.gov/recovery>.

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Contact: Terri White white.terri-a@epa.gov 215-814-5523

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November 20, 2009

Pocomoke ready to build wastewater plant

By Bill Kerbin

Special To The Times

POCOMOKE CITY -- The Pocomoke mayor and Town Council is prepared to direct Bearing Construction Inc., to proceed with the construction of the \$3.9 million upgrade of the city's wastewater treatment plant. This will bring the plant in compliance with the latest state regulations.

The cost of the contract administration and other engineering duties will be approximately \$346,000, according to City Manager Russell W. Blake. He said this is approximately 10 percent of the construction bid, and about 2 percent under the Maryland Department of the Environment suggested guidelines.

Two grants totaling about \$3.7 million, one from the Department of the Environment and the other from the federal government as a stimulus grant, will cover more than 93 percent of the cost. Because of the stimulus grant, the town has to give the order to proceed before the end of 2009.

The council gave final approval for amendments to the Comprehensive Master Plan at its Monday meeting. The first amendment will evaluate the impact of municipal growth in Pocomoke City on public facilities and services over the next 20 years. The second amendment addresses the amount of adequate water resources and if there will be an adequate sewer capacity.

At a council meeting, approval was given to order 18 new street lights for the downtown streets. Blake estimated the cost of the lights to be less than \$30,000, with a state grant of \$10,000 to help defray the costs. The rest of the funding could come from a downtown improvement fund.

These lights are the same as a large number of lights recently ordered by Baltimore City.

With the approval of the council to move forward, Pocomoke City could have a new customer for its wastewater treatment plant: Virginia's New Church Rest Area and Welcome Center. The Virginia Department of Transportation recently contacted the mayor and council requesting consideration of the move.